

The Characteristics of New Albanian Nationalism and its Impact on Albania's Relation with Neighbors

Kriton Kuci

Mediterranean University of Albania,

Albania

kritonkuci@umsh.edu.al

Abstract: *The Balkan region has experienced in the past a lot of tragedies caused by nationalism. Beginning with the Greek revolution, in the first part of the 19th century and onward all Balkan countries have experienced the rising of nationalism in the framework of the nation building process. Albania did too. However in the last decade a new wave of nationalism is rising in Albania. "New Albanian Nationalism" is different from the traditional Albanian nationalism (mainly in form not in content). From 2008 until today, there have been three major developments which have influenced decisively the increasing of the "New Albanian nationalism". First was the declaration of independence of Kosovo. The solution of the Kosovo issue has always been one of the pillars of the traditional Albanian nationalism. Secondly, signing of an agreement between Greece and Albania on the delimitation of the continental shelf and the exclusive economic zone. The agreement was signed in 2009, was challenged by the opposition and public opinion in Albania continues to have great publicity and be part of the political dialogue and the Greek-Albanian relations. Thirdly, there was the official count of the population, the CENSUS which took place in 2011. A process that was strongly contested and was the impetus for establishing the Red and Black Alliance was known firstly as a social movement (a radical nationalist one) and then as a political party with extreme nationalist character.*

This paper consists of a theoretical overview and critical analysis of the rising of nationalism in Albania from 2008 till today. The first part of the paper will focus on the comparison between traditional and new Albanian nationalism, on the content and the basic thesis of the "New Albanian nationalism" (Anti-Hellenism, Anti-Serb, Pan Albanism common positions on "national issues" in Albania, Kosovo and FYROM), and on the political parties, organizations supporting Albanian nationalism. The second part will deal with the impact that the rising of the Albanian nationalism will have on Albania's relations with its neighbors.

Keywords: *New Albanian nationalism, Pan Albanism, Balkans, Red and Black Alliance, radical movement, extremism.*